CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A locator device, comprising:

at least one module comprising at least one chamber, wherein said at least one module is constructed of inherently buoyant materials;

fastener means for connecting said at least one module to a structure;

at least one computer contained in said at least one chamber;

a source for transmitting a communication signal when said structure becomes submerged in a body of water, operably coupled to said at least one computer;

at least one power source operably coupled to said at least one computer and said means for transmitting a signal.

2. The locator device of claim 1, wherein said fastener means comprises a tether that pays out and allows said at least one module to ascend to the water surface when said structure becomes submerged in a body of water.

3. The locator device of claim 1, wherein said fastener means comprises an optical link between said at least one module and said structure.

4. The locator device of claim 1, wherein said fastener means comprises an acoustic link between said at least one module and said structure.

5. The locator device of claim 1 further comprising:

a buoyancy means operably coupled to said at least one module.

6. The locator device of claim 5 wherein said buoyancy means comprises at least one removable weight operably coupled to said at least one module.

7. The locator device of claim 5 wherein said buoyancy means comprises at least one reversible weight operably coupled to said at least one module, wherein said reversible weight comprises a device with at least one chamber that can be purged of or filled with fluid.

8. The locator device of claim 1 further comprising a propulsion system operably coupled to said at least one module.

9. The locator device of claim 8 wherein said propulsion system comprises a propeller and steering fins.

10. The locator device of claim 1 further comprising:

a floatation device operably coupled to said at least one module, wherein said floatation device is deployed when said at least one module approaches or breaks the surface of said body of water.

11. The locator device of claim 1 further comprising:

an imager for creating video data signals, wherein said video data signals are coupled to said at least one computer.

12. The locator device of claim 1 further comprising:

a communications means between modules, between said at least one module and said structure, and/or between said at least one module and a search and/or recovery unit.

13. A locator device, comprising:

a module, said module being constructed of inherently buoyant materials;

a tether connecting said module to a structure, wherein said tether pays out and allows said module to ascend to the water surface when said structure becomes submerged in a body of water;

a communication device contained in a chamber within said module, wherein said communication device transmits a communication signal when said module breaks the water surface when said structure becomes submerged in a body of water.

14. A locator device for submerged structures comprising:

a first module, said first module being constructed of inherently buoyant materials;

a second module, said second module being constructed of inherently buoyant materials;

a first tether connecting said first module to a structure;

a second tether connecting said second module to said structure, wherein said second tether pays out and allows said second module to ascend to the surface when said structure becomes submerged in a body of water;

a first computer contained in a chamber within said first module;

a source for transmitting a communication signal when said structure becomes submerged in a body of water, operably coupled to said first computer;

a first power source operably coupled to said first computer and said source;

a first transducer for communicating between said first and second modules, operably coupled to said first computer and said first power source;

a second computer contained in a chamber within said second module operably coupled to a second power source;

a second transducer for communicating between said first and second modules, operably coupled to said second computer and second power source.